MONTREAL INSTITUTE FOR GENOCIDE AND HUMAN RIGHTS STUDIES

Annual Report, 1. June 1994 - 31. May 1995

by

Kurt Jonassohn. Director

GRANTS

The Institute assisted the Library with an SSHRC application which resulted in a grant for 1994-95 of $ 33,000 for the Azrieli Holocaust Collection.

Two grants were received from Multiculturalism Canada via the Chair in Quebec and Canadian Jewish Studies, as follows:

$ 16,900 for the collecting, editing and analysis of "Unpublished Autobiographies of Holocaust Survivors in Canada" to be jointly undertaken by Kurt Jonassohn and Mervin Butovsky.

$ 26,950 for "We Are Here": A Historical and Sociological Perspective on the Continuing Journey of Montrealers Who Survived the Holocaust (to be undertaken by Frank Chalk in cooperation with the Montreal Holocaust Memorial Centre).

A grant of $ 3,000 from the GFR toward hiring an assistant for an international survey of domestic legislation to implement the U. N. Convention on Genocide. Carol McQueen, our Rhodes Fellow, will be employed in summer 1995 under this grant.

A grant of $ 450 was received from the University Lecturers Committee toward the expenses of Prof. Gerhard L. Weinberg (History Dept., University of North Carolina), March 6, 1995.

A grant of $ 900 was received from the University Lecturers Committee toward the expenses of Hugh Gregory Gallagher (Potomac, Maryland), fall 1995.

GRADUATE STUDENTS + RESEARCH ASSISTANTS

During this reporting year, the following graduate students and research assistants were associated with the Institute:

--Karin Björnson, M.A. student in history, is a research assistant on the projects of both Frank Chalk and Kurt Jonassohn.

--Natalie Fingerhut, a Ph.D. student in history and holder of a Concordia Fellowship, came from the University of Toronto, in order to work with Frank Chalk on the Cambodian genocide and U. S. foreign policy.

--Sandra Fishlinsky, a student in communications, is a research assistant and interviewer for Henri Lustiger-Thaler and Kurt

Jonassohn on the project "The Survivors of Bergen-Belsen: Cultural Legacies."

--Michael Gumpert, a student from New Jersey, has moved to Montreal in order to be a volunteer research assistant at the Institute. He is working with Kurt Jonassohn investigating gross human rights violations in Central America.

--Phil Katz will be writing his doctoral dissertation on U. S. foreign policy and the fate of the Hungarian Jews.

--Edward Kissi, a Ph. D. student working with Frank Chalk, is doing field work on man-made famines in Ethiopia under a Rockefeller Doctoral Dissertation Fellowship.

--Rebecca Posner works with Steven Scheinberg on a critical bibliographic essay on antisemitism in Canada

--Patrick Reed, an M.A. student and a Concordia Fellowship holder, works on Canadian immigration policy and the Serpa Pinto refugees of 1944.

--Helen van Milligan is a research assistant who has worked with Frank Chalk on a preliminary bibliography on Khmer and Armenian refugees from genocide who are now in Montreal.

NETWORKING

In 1990, Frank Chalk and Kurt Jonassohn had published their book on The History and Sociology of Genocide which this year went through its third printing.

During the year the following colleagues visited the Institute:

Bill Leadbetter from the Centre for Comparative Genocide Studies at Macquarie University in North Ryde, NSW, Australia.

Paula Draper, the Coordinator of the Oral History Project of the Steven Spielberg Foundation, gave a talk to the Genocide Workshop on "The Routes of Testimony"

Kenneth Jacobson, author of Embattled Selves (New York: Atlantic Monthly Press, 1994).

During the summer of 1994 the hard-copy catalog of the Azrieli Holocaust Collection (which had been produced in the spring) was mailed out to universities and research institutes in Canada and abroad. A number of letters of thanks and appreciation were received. In particular, the librarian of Queen's University wrote to say that it would serve them as a model for building up their own collection in this area. Prof. Colin Tatz, director of the Centre for Comparative Genocide Studies in Australia, also is using our catalog as a model for establishing their own library collection.

Frank Chalk

¶ served as curator for an exhibit titled "The David J. Azrieli Holocaust Collection: Documents and Text," Webster Library, October 9-31, 1994;

¶ gave lecture "Responding to Apprehended Genocide in Rwanda," to an Amnesty International Workshop at Marianapolis College, November 12, 1994;

¶ gave a lecture on "Unique and Universal Aspects of the Holocaust" to the Final Year Seminar of the Liberal Arts College (Dr. Claudia Claudius, seminar leader), January 19, 1995;

¶ Presented the Keynote Address, "From Prejudice and Racism to Genocide," to the workshop on "Genocide: The Ultimate Expression of Racial Hatred -- What Teachers can do," sponsored by the Multicultural/Multiracial Education Services section of the Protestant School Board of Greater Montreal, February 17, 1995;

¶ Gave five weekly lectures to 30 Volunteer Trainees, 10 docents, and 5 interviewers, in the Montreal Holocaust Memorial Centre's Oral History Training Program. February 16, March 3,10,17, and 24, 1995;

¶ gave the keynote address, "Raoul Wallenberg, Fifty Years Later," sponsored by the Raoul Wallenberg International Movement for Humanity and the Montreal Holocaust Memorial Centre,April30,1995;

¶ "Radio in the Early Detection of Genocide," an talk for PIOOM, the Interdisciplinary Research Centre on Root Causes of Human Rights Violations, University of Leiden, The Netherlands, May 17, 1995;

¶ "L'Holocauste: Le génocide le parfait exemplaire ideologique," keynote lecture in "La Semaine du Génocide des Juifs" for the Centre de creativité du Gesu (Eglise Gesu), a five week series on "Génocides", May 23, 1995;

¶ chaired a session on "Holocaust Survivors and Refugees in Canada: Fifty Years Later," at the annual meeting of the Canadian Jewish Historical Society, May 29, 1995;

¶ met at The Hague with the Senior Legal Advisor of the U. N. International Tribunal for the Prosecution of Crimes against Humanity in the Former Yugoslavia;

¶ began furnishing scholarly assistance to the Legal Advisor of the U. N. International Tribunal for the Prosecution of Persons Responsible for Genocide and Other Serious Violations of International Humanitarian Law in Rwanda;

¶ 1992-1995, Quebec Chair, Institute for International Affairs of B'nai Brith Canada.

Kurt Jonassohn

- ¶ co-chaired a Special Session and a Teaching Workshop at the annual meeting of the American Sociological Association held on 5-9 August 1994 in Los Angeles;
- ¶ participated in a panel discussion on Monitor Radio in Boston, on October 13th 1994;
- ¶ is serving on the Council of the Institute on the Holocaust and Genocide in Jerusalem, Israel (as of 1 January 1995).

Henri Lustiger-Thaler, Research Associate,

- ¶ has conducted this spring a series of interviews with survivors of Bergen-Belsen living now in New York City;
- ¶ is continuing his research at YIVO in New York City on the post-war Displaced Persons experience.

Krystyna (Krysha) Z. Starker, Research Associate:

- ¶ in July 1994, was appointed to the Advisory Committee for the International Conference of Child Survivors/Hidden Children of the Holocaust, to be held in Montrèal.
- ¶ gave two lectures,"Child Survivors as Educators" and the "Presentation and Representation of Children in Holocaust Museums, Monuments, and Movies," (in English and French) at the International Conference of Child Survivors/Hidden Children of the Holocaust held October 7-10 1994 in Montréal;
- ¶ in November 1994 was nominated to the sub-committee "Partenariat" of the Comité consultatif sur les relations interculturelles et interraciales (CCRII) of the Montreal Urban Community;
- ¶ also in November 1994, gave a talk "Women Without Men: 'Communitas' and Survival in Concentration Camps," at the Center for Community and Ethnic Studies, Dept. of Sociology and Anthropology, Concordia University;
- ¶ in December 1994 gave a lecture for Museum Docents, "Holocaust Exhibitions and Holocaust Education," at the Montreal Holocaust Memorial Centre;
- ¶ in February 1995, gave a talk "The U.S. Holocaust Museum: The Medium and the Message," at the B'nai Brith Hillel Foundation;
- ¶ in March, took part, on behalf of CCRII, in The International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination;
- ¶ in April 1995, presented "'The Self' and 'the Other': Symbolic Texts and Historical Contexts," at the Seminar on Biography and Autobiography of the Simone de Beauvoir Institute;
- ¶ in May 1995 was nominated Co-Chair, with Kéder Hyppolite, to organize, in conjunction with "La Semaine interculturelle nationale,

Vivre ensemble," November 10-17, a conference marking the 10th anniversary of CCRII.

¶ gave the following talks in May 1995:

"Bearing Witness in a Canadian Context: Native - Woman - Anthropologist," at the CASCA Annual Meeting in Montreal;

"Childhood in Poland: What Does It Mean To Me Today," at the Polish-Jewish Heritage Foundation, Montreal;

"Bearing Witness in a Canadian Context: the Holocaust Legacy," at the Bialik High School, Montreal.

Between October 1994 and April 1995, a bi-weekly, non-credit, workshop has been meeting where members present papers and/or project proposals associated with the Institute. It is attended by about a dozen people including Chalk and Jonassohn, the graduate students, the research assistants, a couple of former students, and invited guests.

PUBLICATIONS

Kurt Jonassohn presented a paper "Redefining the Conceptualization of Genocide and Gross Human Rights Violations" at the annual meeting of the American Sociological Association held on 5-9 August 1994 in Los Angeles

Karin S. Björnson and Kurt Jonassohn "The Former Yugoslavia: Some Historical Roots of Present Conflicts," Occasional Paper, November 1994.

Kurt Jonassohn, "Some Antecedents of the Holocaust Denial Literature," Occasional Paper, November 1994.

Karin Björnson, presented a paper on "Bibliography on Holocaust Survivors in Canada: Some Historiographical Observations " at the annual meeting of the Canadian Jewish Historical Society, held on May 29th 1995 in Montreal.

Kurt Jonassohn, "Prevention Without Prediction" was published in *Violence and Human Coexistence. Proceedings of the II^rd World Congress on Violence and Human Coexistence* (Montréal, Palais des Congrès, July, 13-17, 1992) Editions Montmorency, 1995, 5 vols., pp. 24-32 in vol. IV.

Frank Chalk, "Humanitarian Intervention in the Interdiction of Genocide" was published in *Violence and Human Coexistence. Proceedings of the II^rd World Congress on Violence and Human Coexistence* (Montréal, Palais des Congrès, July, 13-17, 1992) Editions Montmorency, 1995, 5 vols., pp. 11-15 in vol. IV.